

March 30, 2022

FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

SB 485: AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL

TESTIMONY from Amelia Duval from Manchester, CT

Hi members of the finance committee. My name is Amelia Duval and I live in Manchester. I attend The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts in Hartford, which is a CREC Magnet School. I am here today to ask for your support for **SB 485** to support CREC in much needed capital improvements for my school.

I have benefited greatly as a student at a CREC Magnet School. Both my two older siblings and I started at The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts middle school and were grandfathered into the high school. I feel incredibly lucky to be able to have professional, working artists as my teachers. I spend my day surrounded by incredible young, hard working artists like myself. Our facilities at the Learning Corridor campus are over twenty years old and our faculty has worked hard to make sure they are in working condition for us. As a performing arts high school, it is important that we have up to date technical equipment and adequate materials and space to make sure we continue to thrive. We have specialized facilities that are needed to help students feel like they are ready for the professional world. Our dance studios feel like real, professional studios. Our recording studios allow students to film self tape auditions and record vocal or instrumental tracks for songs. The supplies we are given as students allow us to grow into professional artists. I find magnet schools to be important because they are specialized. They allow for kids like myself to grow, learn and thrive in their specialty.

Magnet schools also provide an opportunity to learn from different backgrounds. My friends and I come from all over the state and to learn about one another and from each other is amazing. To be able to go to a school where your talent is valued is something I could have never gotten from a large, public high school. When you make improvements to magnet schools, you are making changes in each student's life. It is imperative to keep CREC magnet schools up to date and constantly improving so students can continue to have the opportunity to learn from those who share the same passion as them. It is something unique to be able to grow in your field at such a young age and I will always cherish what CREC has given me.

Please support SB 485 so CREC can continue to give me and other students a great education.

THANK YOU!